



# Redhill Philatelic Society

∞ 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year ∞

Newsletter December 2011

Volume 14 No.5



## Forthcoming meetings:

### Tuesday Evenings:

3<sup>rd</sup> January 2012  
Secretary's Evening

17<sup>th</sup> January  
Displays –  
Mr B Cutler & Mr R Cooper

( 6<sup>th</sup> February –  
Visit to Epsom & Ewell )

7<sup>th</sup> February –  
+++ Society Auction +++

15<sup>th</sup> February -  
Chairman's Evening

### Friday Afternoons:

27<sup>th</sup> January 2012  
Display – Mr R Hurst

24<sup>th</sup> February  
Letter 'V' – All Members

## Editorial:

# Happy Christmas!

To all members of the  
Redhill Philatelic Society  
and their families.

Please do not forget the first meeting of 2012 is on 3<sup>rd</sup> January!

Robert Hurst  
3 Bletchingley Road, Merstham  
RH1 3HT

**Up Coming Events:** Details remain as quoted in the previous newsletter

## Auction Final Reminder:

Any items for inclusion in the Society Auction on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2012 should be handed to Paul Munro by the evening of Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January (the first Society meeting of 2012).

## 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Stamp Fair – Tombola Prizes

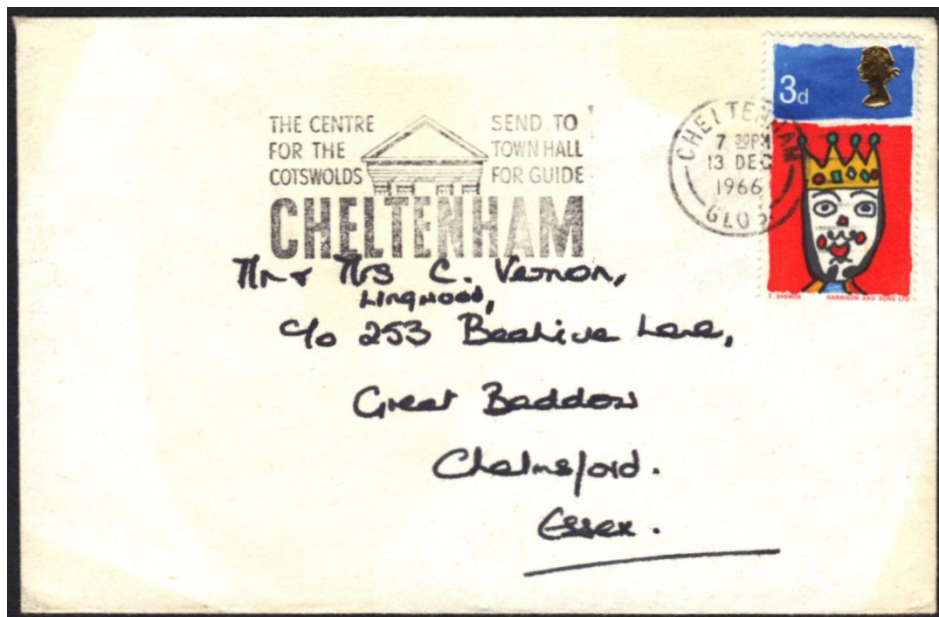
As part of the Stamp Fair to be held on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2012, the Committee would like to run a tombola to assist in raising funds for the Society. To run the Tombola we will need prizes. In the run up to Christmas many stores run Special Offers. If you are able to take advantage of one of these offers and donate an item to the Society, your Committee would be most grateful.

Please remember any item for the Tombola will need to have a "Use By" date after 14 April 2012.

## Great Britain – Christmas Issue 1966

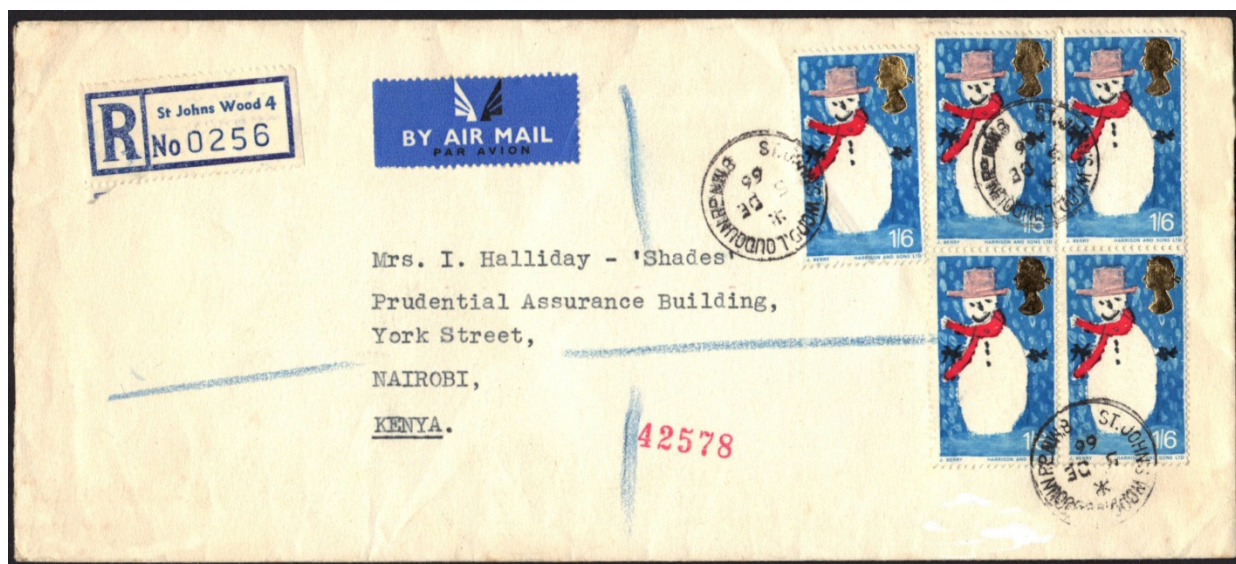
The advent of cheaper colour printing methods in the Victorian era, together with the greater formal recognition of public holidays through the passing of the Bank Holiday's Act in 1871, resulted in the conveyance Christmas greetings becoming big business for the Post Office. However it was not until 1 December 1966 (forty five years ago this year) that a set of stamps were issued by the GPO with a Christmas theme.

Following a competition held in May 1966 with the assistance of the popular BBC children's television program *Blue Peter*, two stamp designs were chosen from nearly 5,000 entries received. The winners were both six years old.



The design chosen for the 3d value was by Tasveer Shemza of Stafford and depicts one of the three Kings of Orient. The 3d value paid the Inland Printed Paper Rate for items up to 2oz (as the cover shown left) and the Inland Postcard Rate (Fig. 2a & b) (both rates came into force on 17 May 1965 and lasted until the two tier postal system was introduced on 16 September 1968). The Printed Paper Rate was ideal for the mailing of Christmas Cards, (as the cover shown left) however it did restrict the number of words of greeting that could be used, if the item was not be subject to possible surcharge. Examples can therefore be found of the 3d value used with the addition of a 1d Wilding definitive stamp to make-up the Inland Letter Rate.

James Berry (of London SE26) provided the Snowman design for the 1/6d value, which was primarily used for the ½ oz. airmail rate to countries in Zone B (including those in Africa, the Americas, India, Hong Kong and much of South East Asia). The stamp could also be combined with the 3d value to pay 1/9d Airmail rate to Australia, New Zealand and Japan. Used in pairs the "Snowman" value would also pay the basic Inland and Overseas Registration fee of 3 shillings



Above: Registered airmail cover postmarked St John's Wood, Loudoun Road NW8, 5 DE1966 to Kenya. 2 x 1/6d stamps pay the registration fee while 3 x 1/6d pays the triple Zone B airmail rate (1 ½ oz.). The reverse bears a Nairobi arrival back-stamp of 9 DE 66

In addition to the stamp designs the artwork for the First Day Cover was also selected from the competition entries: Father Christmas negotiating a chimney was the work of nine year old Ann Belshaw of Leigh, Lancashire. The Official First Day Covers available from the Philatelic Bureau was available with an Edinburgh (Fig. 1) or a Bethlehem, Llandeilo postmark (Fig. 2).





Fig. 1

Each of the children got £20 for their design, but there was a dispute after the stamps were produced, when one of the parents contested the fee after comparing the payment with that normally made to a designer of postage stamps.

The stamps were printed by Harrison & Sons Ltd both with phosphor bands (3d one band & 1/6d two bands) and without, on multiple crown watermark paper. The release of the stamps to Post Offices was governed by whether new sorting technology had been introduced in that area. Other issues made around the same time are noted for missing colour errors. The Christmas issue managed to escape lightly with the only known missing colours currently known

being, green on the 3d value (affecting the jewels on the Kings Crown) and a few examples of the 1/6d with missing pink (the normal colour of the Snowman's hat on the stamp). There are a number of more minor errors including a missing "T" in the designers name "T Shemza" on the 3d stamp, which are a little more affordable to the general collector. Harrisons also appeared to have difficulty with keeping a constant position of the die stamped gold image of the Queen's head (Fig. 3).

Whilst the 1966 Christmas stamps were a first for the GPO, it followed on from the successful launch of specially printed Christmas aerogrammes (air letters) in 1965. A new aerogramme design was issued for 1966 but it did not form part of the children's competition (Fig. 4).



Fig. 4

The post card shown below (Fig 2a & b) was produced by Philatelic Printing and Publishing Co Ltd, Worthing in conjunction with Cameo Stamps as an experiment, the idea being to post the Christmas card as a Postcard for folding on receipt. The card is addressed to the Irish Republic. Inland postage rates applied to mail for Southern Ireland until 18 October 1986.



Fig. 2b



Fig. 3 – Examples of different positions in the printing of the Queen's head.



Fig. 2a

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## Reports of Society Meetings:

### 18 October 2011 – Poster Stamps - Mr C Kiddle

Like postcards 1900 to 1914 was the golden era for the issue and collecting poster stamps, and as with postage stamps, poster stamps were collected both by country and theme. Their purpose was to advertise products, events or a particular company; they were produced for political purposes, or even to raise monies for good causes.

Poster stamps first appeared in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and through technological developments pioneered by the French many of the best examples were produced in France. Stamps were printed in up to four colours, in addition to the use of different coloured papers for certain issues. Collecting poster stamps eventually became a worldwide phenomenon with many stamp dealers producing catalogues and treating them like new issues of postage stamps.

It is difficult to do proper justice to Mr Kiddle's display. Charles is a leading authority on the subject of Poster Stamps and proved an able guide to the subject. For many years after World War 1 stamp collectors tended to shun Poster Stamps, which may well go a long way to explaining why, with multiple thousands of designs produced, so many are today considered rare and new designs are only now being (regularly) re-discovered. The table below sets out frame by frame the subjects displayed. Unfortunately space does not allow reproduction of the items shown, all with their own story to tell and large numbers that would put many modern postage stamp designs to shame.

By contrast the final frame (no. 20) showed examples of postal history from the speaker's home town of Bournemouth, including several items connected with the well-known auctioneer and philatelist Robson Lowe.

Mr Robert Prentice in giving the vote of thanks commented. "The informative display allowed us time to see the material, and it was stunning. The sheer scale of poster stamps as a subject and the quality of the designs has I am sure opened the eyes of many of those present this evening".

Frame	Description	Frame	Description
1	What is a poster stamp	11	WWI - Delandre designs
2	19 <sup>th</sup> Century	12	WWI- Delandre designs
3	1900-1908	13	Better by design
4	1909-1929	14	Every picture tells a story
5	Topics	15	UK Advertising
6	Birds	16	Canada Advertising
7	WWI UK	17	France Advertising
8	WWI	18	Italy Advertising
9	WWI RUSSIA	19	Switzerland Advertising
10	Circa WWI Germany in the USA	20	Bournemouth

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### Cinderella Corner\*

The last combat veteran of World War 1, Claude Choules, who served in the Royal Navy, passed away in May 2011. The entry of Great Britain into the First World War drew with it the support of the Colonies and Dominions, in the form of man power, armaments and supplies. To support the cost of the War and to fund welfare programmes for the armed forces and refugees many fundraising campaigns were held by companies and organisations across the Empire. One such money raising effort the "Big Push" led by The South African Railways and Harbour Authority (SAR&H) in support of the Governor General's Fund.

Shown to the right is one of the labels the SAR&H issued in acknowledgement of a penny donated. Your editor has seen another of these labels used on cover as part of an exhibit at Stampex. It was described as rare (though this may have referred to its use on a mailed item).

If you can identify the type of steam engine illustrated or have any more information concerning the label and the Big Push campaign, please let your editor know.



\*Well it is Christmas .....What do you mean "Oh not it isn't!"